

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4271

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB UN

SUBJECT: KHIEU SAMPHAN LEAVES FOR NORTH KOREA

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN DEPARTED THIS MORNING BY A PRC SPECIAL AIRCRAFT FOR PYONGYANG IN A DELEGATION HEADED NOMINALLY BY PENN NOUTH TO CALL ON PRINCE SIHANOUK. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IENG SARY, GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHAAK, AND CAMBODIAN EMBASSY PEKING MINISTER THIOUNN PRASITH WILL DEPART THIS EVENING FOR NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN LIMA. PER USUN 3709, THIS GROUP PLANS ALSO TO REPRESENT CAMBODIA AT THE UPCOMING UN SPECIAL SESSION.

2. IN PYONGYANG, KHIEU SAMPHAN IS EXPECTED TO WORK OUT THE TERMS OF SIHANOUK'S RETURN TO CAMBODIA.
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LOCAL JOURNALISTS HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE STICKING

POINTS HAS BEEN SIHANOUK'S DEMAND THAT HE BE ACCOMPANIED BY JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO PHNOM PENH AS A GUARANTEE OF HIS SAFETY. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN PEKING THAT THIS AND OTHER POINTS MAY HAVE BEEN IRONED OUT WHEN KHIEU SAMPHAN VISITED THE NORTHEAST CHINESE CITY OF LUTA ON SUNDAY. THERE IS NO WORD ON WHETHER SIHANOUK WOULD ACCOMPANY SAMPHAN BACK ON THE SPECIAL AIRCRAFT OR WOULD VISIT CAMBODIA SOMEWHAT LATER.

3. THE PRC AND CAMBODIA SIGNED AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN PEKING ON AUGUST 18. THE ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT GIVE DETAILS BUT KHIEU SAMPHAN IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH THE SAME EVENING CHARACTERIZED IT AS "UNCONDITIONAL AND GRATIS AID." HE ALSO NOTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "SPEEDY AND CONVENIENT COMMUNICATIONS" BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND CHINA SUGGESTING THAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN AGREED ON.

4. DURING THE SAME BANQUET, BOTH SIDES GAVE EFFUSIVE PRAISE TO THE CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT AND TO CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THE PRC. SAMPHAN STATED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD REACHED A "CONSENSUS OF VIEWS ON FURTHER CONSOLIDATING AND DEVELOPING THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ON THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND QUESTIONS OF COMMON INTEREST". THE CONSENSUS ON THE "CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION" RAISES OBVIOUS QUESTIONS OF HOW FAR THE CAMBODIANS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CHINESE VIEW OF SOVIET AND VIETNAMESE DESIGNS IN THE AREA. NEITHER SIDE MENTIONED EITHER OF THE "SUPERPOWERS" OR CAMBODIA'S CLOSE NEIGHBORS DURING THE RETURN BANQUET SPEECHES.

5. THE CAMBODIAN DELEGATION IS THE FIRST SUCH HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION IN SEVERAL MONTHS NOT TO MEET WITH CHAIRMAN MAO. SAMPHAN MET MAO ON HIS LAST VISIT AND WE EXPECTED HIM TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN THIS TIME. AS OF YESTERDAY NOON, IN DISCUSSION WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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USLO OFFICER, MAO'S INTERPRETER TANG WEN-SHENG SEEMED TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING WITH MAO. IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT MAO'S PHYSICAL CONDITION WAS NOT UP TO A MEETING IN ANY OF THE FOUR DAYS OF THE VISIT.

6. JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAD NOT BEEN ISSUED BY 1700 LOCAL AUGUST 19.

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